



# Teesdale Activity Trail

Creating a fun landscape to encourage kids to walk to school



## Project Specs

**Client:** Golden Plains Shire

**Location:** Teesdale, Victoria

**Date:** Construction completed 2014

**Budget:** \$180k

**Role:** Master Plan, Concept Design, Community Consultation, Documentation



Illustration

## Our Approach

Golden Plains Shire commissioned PM&A to design an activity trail - the Trail of the Turtle - to encourage kids to walk to school and to create a space in the rural township of Teesdale that encourages the community, particularly children, to get together and be active.

Following ideas generated during some fun consultation sessions with kids from the nearby Teesdale Primary School, we designed a space with multiple intertwining pathways so there is a different experience every day of the week.

The project features a tree tunnel, turtle play sculpture, linear activity trail, sheoak woodland, and furniture and future shelter constructed of recycled timber pallets.

The concept plans for the trail have been hailed by health promotion charity Victoria Walks as an innovative solution, one that dovetails with their Smart Steps program.

Landscape, project manager - Perry Mills  
Illustrator - Brian Tang  
Sculptor - Viktor Ceburg  
Architect - Stewart Seaton



Perry Mills & Associates

Landscape Architects

0428 848 646

perry@perrymills.com.au

www.perrymills.com.au

# Playspace

## Teesdale Activity Trail



Tree Tunnel with Weeping Callistemons planted on linear mounds.



Turtle Play sculpture by Victor



## Activity Trail for Kids

Getting to school this year will mean much more for students at Teesdale Primary than just sitting in a car and being dropped at the gate.

They are walking, riding, balancing or perhaps jumping or cart-wheeling to school along an activity trail recently constructed by Golden Plains Shire.

It is based on consultation that we did with the Teesdale community with David Engwicht, who developed the 'walking school bus' concept, and on discussions with an enthusiastic team of grade 4, 5 and 6 students who presented their ideas for the trail, and came up with some great ideas that I never would have thought of.

They were really keen to create a trail that is exciting and fun, and wanted to see it evoke the 'spirit of Teesdale'. They suggested that it tell a story about the Eastern Long-necked Turtle, and have turtle sculptures along the path that you could play on.

They also understood that walking to school has some great benefits – you get some exercise, you get an opportunity to relate to the environment and the community, and that it means less traffic around the school at pick-up time.

According to Environment Victoria around 40% of car trips in Melbourne are less than 2km. And nearly 80% of children who live less than 2km from their school are driven both ways every day.

Walking or cycling to school instead keeps you active, contributes to the fight against health problems like obesity, diabetes and heart disease, reduces pollution and waste and helps connect with community & the environment.. And its a great way to start the day!

Teesdale Primary School Principal Tony Gove and teacher Melissa O'Toole were pleased that the children were engaged and excited by the chance to leave a legacy and contribute to a project in a public space.

The project is part of state government funding for works that improve the streetscape and town centre experience in Haddon, Rokewood, Teesdale and Meredith.

